(combined) alongwith Action Taken Memorandum (ATM) have been laid on the Table of the House. Necessary action is being taken to lay other report, alongwith ATM, on the Table of the House, in accordance with the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993.

Mandate of NCSK

2407. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Commission for Safai Karamchari (NCSK) deals with the problems of people who are most discriminated, stigma ridden, below poverty line and engaged in a unclean manual job;

(b) if so, why the NCSK has been downgraded;

(c) whether Government will reinstate the position of NCSK to a statuary body with judicial powers; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON) : (a) Terms of reference of the NCSK, *inter alia*, include making recommendations about specific programme of action towards elimination of inequalities in status, facilities and opportunity for Safai Karamcharis.

(b) to (d) National Commission for Safai Karamcharis was set up in pursuance of Section 3(I) of the NCSK Act, 1993. Section I (4) of the Act provided that the said Act shall cease to have effect after 31st March, 1997. The validity of the Act was extended up to 31.3.2002, through NCSK (Amendment) Act, 1997 and further up to 29.2.2004 through NCSK (Amendment) Act, 2001. Since then the term of the Commission has been extended through Resolution of the Government and the present term of Commission is up to 31.3.2010. There is no proposal to restore the statutory status to the Commission.

Implementation of schemes

2408. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether he will apprise community-wise progress report in the matter of implementation of the schemes under his Ministry for the year 2008-09 and 2009-10;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact that there is always delay in according sanctions to the schemes sent by various State Governments for their implementation;

(c) the remarkable success in the matter of implementation of the schemes for physically handicapped persons; and

(d) whether the Ministry will furnish the statistics in the matter of employment of physically handicapped persons as per Government policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON) : (a) The mandate of the Ministry is to empower the disadvantaged and marginalized sections of the society belonging to *inter alia* Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes. The progress in respect of these groups under various schemes/programmes is given below:

{(Amount in crore) (Beneficiaries in lakhs)}

Target Group	2008-09			2009-10		
	Allocation	Releases	Estimated Beneficiaries	Allocation	Releases as on 4.12.2009	Targeted Beneficiaries
Scheduled Castes	1797.90	1806.90	53.39	1899.00	1064.87	59.53
Other Backward Classes	247.50	285.30	22.36	240.00	134.28	21.66

(b) Sanction of grants under various schemes depends upon timely submission of requisite documents like Utilization Certificate, Audited Accounts, complete in all respects.

(c) About 4.77 lakh beneficiaries have been covered under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) and scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP). Besides, varieties of services are provided to persons with disabilities by National Institutes under the aegis of this Ministry.

(d) The Government has launched a Special Recruitment Drive to fill up the backlog reserved vacancies for Persons with Disabilities in accordance with Government policy.

Old age homes

2409. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the norms and guidelines laid down for construction and maintenance of old age homes in the country;

(b) the number of old age homes opened in the country during last two years and till date, State-wise;

(c) the number of people residing in each of these homes during the said period, location-wise;

(d) whether any proposal for opening of such homes is pending with Government including that of Maharashtra; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?